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THE WHITE HOUSE

WASHINGTON

August 27, 1975

MEETING WITH THE SECRETARY OF HEALTH,  
EDUCATION & WELFARE, FORREST DAVID MATHEWS

Thursday, August 28, 1975  
4:00 p.m. (60 minutes)  
The Oval Office

From: James E. Connor 

I. PURPOSE

To meet with Secretary Mathews in order to discuss several broad issues of mutual concern.

II. BACKGROUND, PARTICIPANTS & PRESS PLAN

A. Background: This is your first private session with Secretary Mathews since his swearing in on August 8, 1975. He has, however, been present at two Cabinet meetings since then.

This will be the sixth in a series of meetings with your new Cabinet officers. It is intended to enable you and the Secretary to get to know one another better, and to enable each of you to indicate general policy areas and approaches you consider important.

B. Participants: Secretary of HEW Forrest David Mathews; James Connor and James Cannon.

C. Press Plan: Announcement to the Press. Press Photo opportunity at beginning of meeting and David Hume Kennerly photo.

D. Discussion: The Secretary has indicated a number of issues he would like to take up with you during the meeting.

1. His evaluation of the Department of HEW.
2. State Government relations. This is based on conversations he has had with the Governors and Lt. Governors of various States. Of particular concern to the Secretary is the California situation where Governor Brown has brought suit against HEW for enforcing Congressional requirements for advertisement of Title XX provisions.
3. Department of HEW relations with the labor unions. Shortly before his departure as Secretary of HEW, Cap Weinberger cut off AFDC money for strikers. Both George Meany and Leonard Woodcock objected quite strongly to this.

In addition, the Domestic Council has suggested some issues you might wish to raise with the Secretary. These are:

1. Sustaining the Education Appropriations Bill veto.
2. The problem of the SSI overpayments.
3. The busing issue.
4. Some fundamental questions which will need to be addressed both by HEW and the Domestic Council. These include
  - a. consolidation of welfare programs.
  - b. development of an Administration policy on national health insurance and health care costs.
  - c. overhaul of the Social Security system.
  - d. examination of the Federal Government's role in education.

### III. TALKING POINTS

1. David, I have made it a practice to meet with my new Cabinet members to discuss some broad problem areas that concern both me and them. I want to have an opportunity to get your views and to give you some of my own. Let's start with some of your concerns.
2. As I stressed in the Cabinet meeting yesterday, I don't want the Education veto overridden. I will be relying on you heavily to help us in sustaining the veto.

3. The issue of SSI overpayments has been getting a great deal of publicity lately. What is your assessment of the problem?
4. Of course, one of the major problems we will be facing very shortly is the busing situation. I'm sure you know my stand on this issue. I know you have given this particular problem a lot of thought, and I'd appreciate having your views.
5. You will be working very closely with Jim Cannon and the Domestic Council in the months ahead. Some of the issues I'd like you both to concentrate on are :
  - ... consolidation of welfare programs.
  - ... development of an Administration policy on national health insurance and health care costs.
  - ... Overhaul of the Social Security System.
  - ... Examination of the Federal Government's role in education.

I'd like you and Jim Cannon to get together on these and other issues in the near future and be prepared to come back to me with some recommendations for improving our performance in these areas.

6. I want you to know that you will have access to me when you need it. I've asked Jim Connor to meet with you regularly. If you need quick answers or want to see me, let him know.

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8/28/75

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